



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

November 17, 2004

News Release

PHILLY PRIEST SENTENCED IN CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CASE

Matthew J. Kornacki was the target of two Federal investigations

PHILADELPHIA – Wynnewood Priest Matthew J. Kornacki was sentenced by a federal judge today to 30 months, a \$6,000 fine, plus two years supervised release after pleading guilty to one count of possession of child pornography.

Kornacki, 57, was indicted on federal charges May 27.

The indictment stemmed, in part, from an ongoing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigation of an Internet billing company in Minsk, Belarus. That investigation, believed to be the largest Internet child pornography investigation to date, has resulted in the arrest of more than 160 individuals in the United States and more than 860 arrests in Australia, Denmark, Finland, France, Hong Kong, Norway, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom by foreign law enforcement acting on ICE leads.

Kornacki was also under investigation by the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Secret Service for child pornography. He surrendered to federal authorities the same day he was indicted.

“Those who trade in the exploitation of children can no longer hide in the anonymity of cyberspace,” said ICE Special Agent-In-Charge Bill Reid, who leads ICE investigations in Philadelphia. “Let this serve as notice to those who trade child pornography that this repulsive behavior will not be tolerated.”

This investigation and arrest are part of Operation Predator, a comprehensive Department of Homeland Security initiative to protect young people from child sex tourists, human smugglers and traffickers, child pornographers and international child sex tourists. Operation Predator draws on the full spectrum of intelligence, investigative, cyber, and detention and removal functions of ICE to target those who prey on children. Since Operation Predator began in July 2003, ICE has made more than 4,400 arrests nationwide, including 71 in Pennsylvania.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at www.ice.gov.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).